info@oasisoverland.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0)203 725 8924

CASABLANCA TO MARRAKECH (14 DAYS) MOROCCO ENCOMPASSED

COUNTRIES VISITED: MOROCCO

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the ancient Roman ruins of Volubilis
- Explore the mosques, museums, monuments in the historic city of Meknes
- Getting lost in the labyrinthine streets of the ancient walled city of Fez
- Roam the picturesque town of Chefchaouen with it's blue washed buildings, cobbled lanes and leather workshops
- Spend the night in a traditional berber camp enjoying local food, music and an amazing night out under the stars!
- Hike through Todra Gorge - known as Morocco's Grand Canyon
- Explore the city of 'Yunkai' featuring in the Game of Thrones - better known as Aït Benhaddou
- Enjoy bright and breezy Essaouira, an ancient coastal city
- Soak up the energy of Djemaa el Fna Square filled with its snake charmers, buskers and story tellers

INCLUDES

- Accommodation - 12 nights in 3/4* hotels (shared rooms) + 1 night desert camp

- Arrival Transfer from Casablanca airport included on Day 1 (or if pre-trip accommodation is booked directly with Oasis for our joining hotel)
- Guided tour of Rabat, Volubilis, Ait Benhaddou, Chefchaouen
- Fes full day city tour
- Camel trek and Berber camp in the Sahara Desert
- Entrance fees for included sightseeing
- All transport in private Minibus, 4X4 Jeeps & one Public Bus
- Meals as per daily itinerary

EXCLUDES

- Visas
- Optional Excursions as listed in the Pre-Departure Information
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Tipping kitty - 2026 - USD 70, 2027 - USD 75
- The tipping kitty does not cover your Nomadic guide, so please feel free to offer a tip at the end of the tour if you are happy with the service provided
- Travel insurance
- End of Trip Airport transfer
- Airport taxes
- Flights
- Drinks

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

ARRIVAL & ACCOMMODATION

Trip Joining Point: Diwan Hotel - Casablanca

Start Time Day 1: 18:00

Address: 31 Bd Hassan Seghir, Casablanca 20000, Morocco

Website: **https://www.hoteldiwancasablanca.com/**

All prices listed are approximate and subject to limited availability.

Room Type	Price	Description
Single	£90.00	Per Room, en-suite

Double/Twin	£130.00	Per Room, en-suite

The trip starts from the Diwan Hotel at approximately 6pm on the evening of Day 1 of your trip.

PRE-TRIP ACCOMMODATION:

You can pre-book accommodation and airport transfers through us. We will require your flight number, arrival time, and arrival date so please ensure this information is forwarded to us as soon as you have booked your flight. Please book this service as soon as you have booked your flight and no later than 6 weeks prior to departure, after which a late booking fee may apply. If you have booked through a travel agent, please contact them to request pre-trip accommodation and airport transfers.

Double, twin, and triple rooms will be provided subject to availability, where requested. However when not available we may need to book other rooming arrangements, and will fit these as closely as possible to your request. Those travelling solo will be put in shared rooms to reduce the costs to them, which may be twin/triple shares with other Oasis Overland travellers. Single rooms may be available in some cities for solo travellers, and we will arrange this for you on request, subject to availability.

If you are arriving early in the morning and you would like to check in immediately, you may have to reserve your room for the previous night to ensure direct check in, otherwise you may have to wait until normal check in times (usually 1pm to 2pm).

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

Airport Arrival Transfers are included in the cost of your adventure (provided you request these via the UK office or your account six weeks before your departure).

On arrival into Casablanca airport you will be met by a representative holding a sign with your name on it. Please note they will be waiting just outside the airport terminal building due to rules at the airport – please look out for them and introduce yourself. You can purchase Morocco Dirham at the airport Forex Bureau or ATM but this can also be done easily at your Hotel or from ATMs near the Hotel.

If your flight is delayed by more than 2 hours before departure - or - if after arriving in Casablanca Airport you cannot find your airport transfer please call Brahim (Morocco Tour Manager) +212 (0) 661 252 381 - Emergency number.

PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

Day 1 of your trip is an arrivals day, there will be a pre-departure meeting in the starting hotel this evening, usually around 6:00pm. There will be a notice in reception advising the exact time and here your crew will explain how the day to day running of the trip works. Your Tour Leader will **collect your Local Payment** money as well as 2 photocopies of your **passport information page**, **insurance policy details** with policy number and confirmation that the duration will cover you for the entire trip and a **24-hour emergency assistance** telephone number.It is essential that you attend this meeting - please let the UK office or your tour leader know if you are unable to do so.

POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Post-trip accommodation can be arranged with your Tour Leader during the trip or directly with the hotel on arrival. The return airport transfer can be arranged through your hotel / hostel and is not included, it is at your own expense. We regret these services cannot be arranged via the Oasis office before departure.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Normally our trips start in the evening of day 1 with a pre-departure meeting (you will be given exact details on when and where to meet either on collection from the airport or it will be clearly noted in the reception of our joining hotel). Please check the start time of your trip in the Accommodation Information section and allow extra time for your arrival wherever possible.

Return flights can be booked for the final day of the trip which is set aside for your departure. You may wish to allow some extra time to explore your departure city further.

There are many online flight search engines such as **www.skyscanner.net** or **www.ebookers.co.uk** **,** flights can also be booked direct with airline websites or through travel agencies. Please inform us of your flight details through your online account, as airport transfers can be arranged for various trips.

One way ticket - If you intend to travel on a one way ticket to meet up with one of our trips, without possessing an onward flight ticket - we recommend that you have a copy of your payment confirmation/receipt (that you will be sent at time of your balance payment) available at immigration to assist easy entry.

Departure Taxes - Please check with your Travel Agent or Airline if your flight ticket already includes a departure tax payment out of the country.

PASSPORTS

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months AFTER your trip finishes. This is a general requirement for all of the countries we travel to on our trips.

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip. It is your responsibility to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require.

Please bring 2 photocopies of your passport details to give to your tour leader.

As a guideline, you will need at least 1 blank page per country in your passport after you have obtained any relevant visas before your trip commences.

VISAS

The information below is to be used only as a guide and may change without prior notice. It is advisable to contact the relevant embassy in plenty of time before the trip departs to check the current visa requirements**.** It is **your responsibility** to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require**.**

Morocco

- **All trips:**

Passport Holders from UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will not require a visa to enter Morocco.

South African passport holders require a **visa in advance** to enter Morocco. You may be eligible to apply for an e-visa if you hold another visa, e.g. UK or Schengen. If not, you need to obtain a visa through a Moroccan embassy or consulate in your home country, before beginning the trip. Please contact your nearest consulate to find out more.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a compulsory requirement that you have adequate travel insurance before you join any Oasis Trip & at the very least are insured for all necessary medical & repatriation costs incurred.

You will be asked to provide the following details in **My Oasis Account** if you have not already done so: travel insurance name, insurance policy number & insurance emergency telephone number. You will also be required to give a copy of your policy with this information to your Tour Leader on arrival with confirmation that the policy duration is sufficient to cover you for the entire duration of your trip. It

is also wise to leave a copy of your insurance policy with a friend or relative for safe keeping.

We believe that your safety and holiday enjoyment are very important. It is a mistake to think that "it will never happen to me". It is also very important that you are covered for all the activities that you may wish to undertake while on our trip. It is extremely important that you check the full extent of your cover related to 24 hour Medical Emergency Assistance. In the event of you needing medical treatment you want to know that you have the best cover available to you. Your policy should include adequate Medical Emergency and Repatriation cover as well as Cancellation, Baggage and Personal Liability cover. You need to be aware of EXACTLY what activities your policy covers you for. Please note that skiing is not usually covered in most insurance policies.

We offer tailor made Overland Adventure Travel Insurance that covers most of the adventure and sporting activities on our trips.

For further information on the insurance we offer, the activities covered and costs, check out the **Travel Insurance** section of our website. You can purchase our insurance by logging into **My Oasis Account** and click 'Buy Insurance' or through the following **link**.

It is a compulsory requirement that you have adequate travel insurance before you join any Oasis trip and at the very least are insured for all necessary medical and repatriation costs incurred.

You will be asked to provide the following details if you have not already done so: travel insurance company name, insurance policy number & insurance emergency telephone number. You will also be required to give a copy of your policy with this information to your Tour Leader on arrival with confirmation that the policy duration is sufficient to cover you for the entire duration of your trip. It is also wise to leave a copy of your insurance policy with a friend or relative for safe keeping.

We believe that your safety and holiday enjoyment are very important. It is a mistake to think that "it will never happen to me". It is also very important that you are covered for all the activities that you may wish to undertake while on our trip. It is extremely important that you check the full extent of your cover related to 24 hour Medical Emergency Assistance. In the event of you needing medical treatment you want to know that you have the best cover available to you. Your policy should include adequate Medical Emergency and Repatriation cover as well as Cancellation, Baggage and Personal Liability cover. You need to be aware of EXACTLY what activities your policy covers you for. Please note that skiing is not usually covered in most insurance policies. Please note also that many of the areas we visit are not as developed as the UK and we have no control over the availability or standard of medical and repatriation services and facilities in the areas we visit and these do not form any part of our contract with you.

You should also note that passenger liability insurance covering vehicles, particularly in Third World countries, may be unavailable or inadequate; it is therefore important that your insurance cover makes sufficient provision for you and your dependents in the event of an accident.

We are happy to refer our UK based travellers to the travel insurance specialists Campbell Irvine who have a policy suitable for overlanding which covers most of the adventure and sporting activities on our trips.

Please be aware that most travel insurance policies will not cover you if you are visiting areas against government travel advice. If your trip will go through areas like this (for example, some of our Trans Africa routes through West Africa) then you may need to look at an alternative policy for these sections, for example Battleface or SafetyWing.

For further information, check out the **Travel Insurance** section of our website.

IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR THOSE VISITING ZANZIBAR:
The Zanzibar Government have announced the introduction of a travel insurance policy which will be obligatory for all foreign visitors to the islands, regardless of whether travellers have their own travel insurance in place.

1. The insurance policy is sold by Zanzibar Insurance Corporation.
2. The cost is US$44 per person.
3. The insurance requirement comes into force on 1st October 2024.
4. The policy must be purchased online at visitzanzibar.go.tz and purchases can be made from 1st September 2024.
5. Payment can be made online by debit or credit card.
6. On completion of the purchase, visitors will receive a QR code. The policy documents will be sent to your registered email address.
7. The policy document and QR code must be presented on in Zanzibar. Entry will be refused without this documentation.

To ensure you have a smooth entry, please ensure the above policy is purchased in advance of your arrival.

MONEY, BUDGETS AND LP

Spending Money

From past trips and travellers feedback £20 to £30 per day per person whilst not climbing, should cover costs such as meals not included, soft drinks and beers, email & communications, souvenirs and other general spending. Personal spending habits & budgets differ greatly from person to person, so it is difficult to give a specific amount. Budget separately for optional activities (see optional excursions page).

How to bring your currency?

Past Oasis travellers have fed back that they have felt, as a general rule it is best to bring your money as **US$ Dollars/Euros or English Pounds Sterling cash** (exchange rates in Tanzania are normally better than in the UK).

Please remember that visas need to be paid for in US$ CASH ONLY!

Make sure that all your notes are in good condition. Old, torn or marked notes are often refused by the banks and shops. Please ensure your notes are dated post 2006 and do not have a serial number starting with CB. Scottish pounds are also not accepted.

Changing money

Change your money only at banks or forex bureaus. It is illegal to change money on the street, as these people will normally be opportunistic thieves or undercover police.

Credit & Debit Cards

If you are intending using your credit or debit card, we suggest taking more than one card with you as you may find that your card is not accepted in the first ATM you try. Visa and Maestro cards are best. **We do not recommend using MasterCard based cards in Africa as they have very limited access through large parts of Africa.** Please note that usually you will be given local currency and NOT US$ or £GB. We recommend that you inform your bank that you will be using your card abroad to avoid it being blocked. Please see the optional excursions page for activities that can be paid for using a Credit or Debit Card.Commission rates vary between 2-8%.

Pre-Paid Travel Currency Cards

These cards are similar to normal Credit and Debit cards but they can be pre loaded with cash before you travel with a set amount allowing you to withdraw this cash using the card at normal ATMs. It is a more secure way to access cash on your trip, but again do not rely on these as your sole means of funds on a trip - (please refer to the ATM section). Several banks and companies now offer these cards, but be sure to look into the rates for withdrawing cash when making your decision. When using these cards abroad you will use them to withdraw the local currency from an ATM and not the currency that you loaded onto the card.

ATMs

These are available in Kilimanjaro airport and Moshi which allow you to withdraw local currency only. We discourage you from relying on your ATM card as a primary source of funds in case it is lost/stolen/swallowed, or the machine isn't working. Besides memorising your PIN, it is also important to be aware of your daily withdrawal limit and bank withdrawal costs.

Tipping

Is often expected and relied upon. It is often more than a reward for services well done, but, as wages are extremely low, it is an accepted means of supplementing an income. If you would like to leave a tip for any activity/individual, you could organize this as a group and give a tip at the end. A recommended amount for restaurants is usually 10% of your total bill and similar for activities. Some countries also add an extra Government tax on restaurant bills.

Tipping your guides, porters and cooks for your climb is highly recommended, and customary on Kilimanjaro. See the Kilimanjaro tipping guide below.

CLIMATE

Morocco makes for a good destination all year round. Daily sunshine ranges from 13 hours in the desert to 9 and 10 on the Atlantic coast. In the winter, you will see up to 6 hours in the North, increasing to 7 or 8 as you move south.

The north coast and the Rif mountains have a Mediterranean style climate: hot and generally continuous sunshine between May and September, interspersed with rainy periods for the rest of the year. The Atlantic coast sees most rain, with the heaviest falls in winter. The coast is very mild in winter, and avoids the snow that can be seen throughout the year on the peaks of the Atlas mountains. The night time temperatures up in the Atlas mountains are likely to be very cold. We would advise thermal layers at night-time and a good 4 season sleeping bag. We can experience rain on our Sept. and May departures-although it is more likely for Sept.

WHAT TO TAKE

Equipment	**Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip**
• **Sleeping Bag - recommended for trips departing Nov-April** • **Sleep Sheet** • **Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items** • **Soft rucksack, holdall or suitcase** • **Water bottle - for personal use - we recommend Water-to-Go (see below Responsible Travel)**	• Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm & moisturiser • Sun block 35 + after sun, hat & sun glasses • Tampons (can buy in most places) • Contraception
Clothes	**Personal Effects**

• **One pair of trainers or boots** • **Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs** • **Underwear/socks** • **T shirts/shirts** • **Shorts/swimwear** • **Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings** • **Skirt or dress** • **Sweat shirt/jumper** • **Jacket/fleece & waterproof jacket**	• Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card • Torch and spare batteries (head torch is best) • Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras and mobile phone batteries) • Money belt • Personal stereo - iPod/MP3 etc • Towel and/or sarong
Recommended Medical Kit List	
• **Antiseptic ointment/Antihistamine cream & tablets** • **Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer** • **Eye-drops/bath** • **Anti-diarrhoea treatment** • **A couple of bandages (elasticated & triangular)** • **Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc**	• Insect repellent containing Deet • Re-hydration sachets/vitamin tablets • Assorted plasters • Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery • We advise you to bring a small personal medical kit for general everyday use, as well as any personal over-the-counter medicines that you may wish to keep with you. Our guides are familiar with the nearest pharmacies, doctors and hospitals throughout the trip if you need to seek medical attention. It will be your own responsibility to carry your medical kit on included excursions and optional activities as some local operators may not have medical kits to hand.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Cameras (incl. Digital & Video Cameras) - An easy to use 'point and press' will get you some good photos. For memorable shots, it may be worthwhile investing in an SLR camera, but be sure to get some practice in before the trip! Most towns and cities have internet cafes where you can download onto CD/internet sites - but don't rely on it.

Photography - Be aware of your surroundings when taking photographs and filming. Some locations will be sensitive or have local laws banning photography. For example it is usually forbidden to use cameras at borders or around government buildings, military installations, bridges and airports or to take photos of local officials. If you do take photos or film where it is not permitted you may find yourself being questioned by irate officials who may decide to confiscate your camera or instruct you to delete all the images/footage on your device. If in doubt ask for permission, or if there is no-one to ask use some common sense.

Drones - As the use of drones becomes more common, countries throughout the world are gradually updating their laws and restrictions on usage. The specific regulations will vary from one country to another, so do check the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice for the latest information. As with cameras, use your common sense if you do use a drone and avoid operation in sensitive areas or near any public or government buildings. If you plan to bring a drone on your trip with us please contact us first to ensure there will be a suitable place to store it while on your trip. We cannot be held responsible for any equipment which may be confiscated by the local authorities.

Electrical charging & power supply - It may be difficult to find a power source for charging at times,

so a spare battery is a must. Log onto**www.whatplug.net**for information regarding the different electrical plugs and voltage used in each country.

CONTACTING HOME

The internet and WiFi are available in many towns / cities you will visit. Do bear in mind that the connections can be unreliable and will not always be as fast as you are used to at home. If a lot of people try to use the internet at the same time the speed will be slower still, especially if trying to make Skype calls or upload photos / videos. During periods of the trip where we are wild camping, internet will be less common.

Some travellers choose to take an unlocked mobile phone with them and buy local SIM cards in each country, allowing them to use mobile data. If you particularly want or need regular internet access this may be a good option. Telephone calls can be expensive usually £1 to £5 for a three minute call.

Online Diaries - A great variety of free "travel blogs" are now available online, they are a good way of keeping relatives and friend up to date with what you are doing and a good place to upload photos, collecting messages as well as keeping a record for yourself.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Before you go

- Remove unnecessary packaging before you go - waste disposal facilities are often stretched or non existent in the places we visit. To avoid unnecessary pollution of local water supplies take environmentally friendly toiletries with you.
- Why not invest in a wind-up or solar-powered torch or media player before you travel or at least rechargeable batteries.
- Learn some of the local language and read up on the local history/culture before you go. You'll get so much more out of your trip.
- Why not pack some pens/pencils exercise books in your rucksack and they can be donated to a local school or project while you're away. You can also purchase these items cheaply, locally which will help local businesses.
- Take a sturdy water bottle with you from home that you can re-use throughout your trip. We carry large quantities of purified water with us on our Expedition vehicles and it is much better for the environment if you drink this, rather than purchase bottled water along the way. (It also saves you money).
- Water-to-Go: Oasis Overland have partnered with Water-to-Go to help reduce the number of plastic water bottles consumed during a trip. Water-to-Go is a filtration system that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants including viruses, bacteria, chemicals and heavy metals

from any non-salt water source. Click here and enter the code OASIS15 to purchase your **Water-to-Go** products at 15% discount. Water-to-Go will then donate a further 15% to Oasis Overland Charity projects.

While you're travelling

From experience gained in running trips, we have developed our own practical and manageable environmental policy which all of our crew practice on the trips we operate, and they will share this information with you at the start of your trip. We welcome your input on this, plus any new ideas you may have, to improve our existing procedures. As a guide here's a few tips to bear in mind.

- Don't waste water. It is a scarce resource in many of the places our trips visit. On all our Ultimate and Overland Expeditions we carry large quantities of purified water with us. We encourage you to refill your own water bottles from this supply, rather than purchase bottled water along the way- much more environmentally friendly and saves you money.
- Never buy endangered species or endangered habitat products. Apart from the fact of it being illegal it also encourages the trade to continue.
- Look after and preserve the areas we visit. Be careful about stepping on coral reefs or trekking on undesignated tracks.
- Buy locally made crafts and products helping to support the local economy.
- Don't feel when bargaining that you have to get the cheapest price possible just for the sake of it. Pay what the item is worth to you & don't worry about what someone else has paid.
- Try the local food and drinks - this will help to support local farmers and food sellers. Sitting in a local cafe is also a great way to meet local people.
- Dispose of litter appropriately on your trip. This includes cigarette butts. Not only does litter look unsightly it can be lethal to wildlife.
- Where any toilet facilities exist, however unsavoury they might seem to you, they should be used. Where they do not, always bury your waste and make sure it is never near (at least 30m) a water source.
- When game viewing do not encourage your guides to get too close to the wildlife so that their natural behaviour is impeded.
- Respect local customs, traditions and beliefs of the people in the different regions that you travel through.
- Do not take photos of people, ritual events or special places unless you have asked first. Dress appropriately according to local codes and show respect around religious festivals.
- Recycling is almost non-existent in many of the areas and countries we visit - we do the best we can with limited resources & space on our vehicles.
- For books dedicated to travelling more responsibly & ethically see: **www.tourismconcern.org.uk**

Community Projects - Oasis are active in raising awareness and providing support to a number of projects and local schools where we believe we can make a positive difference. More information on the **projects we support**.

SECURITY

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) offer country-specific advice, regarding not only security but also entry regulations, local laws and customs and health. We strongly recommend all travellers visit the FCDO website, or the equivalent in their home country, to familiarise themselves with local conditions and issues in the countries they plan to visit before committing to a trip with us. You can view their website here.

If you have any questions at all about the safety or security of your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to discuss your trip in more detail.

In cities - All major cities have their share of petty crime (just like our cities) and sensible precautions need to be taken. Wearing expensive looking jewellery or watches and carrying cameras will draw unnecessary attention to you. Leave valuables such as passports and excess money in your hotel safe (we recommend carrying a copy of your passport details page at all times). You may find a simple money belt is more discreet than a bag. Always be aware of your surroundings and when approached by people you do not know, use your common sense. At night in cities it's best to use a taxi, rather than walking around the streets, single women in particular need to be careful and we would suggest that it is safer to be in a group.

Oasis does not take responsibility for clients' personal items and we advise you to not take items of value that are not essential for the journey.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a compulsory requirement that you have adequate travel insurance before you join any Oasis Trip, and at the very least are insured for all necessary medical & repatriation costs incurred if you need them.

You will be asked to provide the following details on the Traveller Information Form that you send in to us after making your booking. If you have not already done so: travel insurance name, insurance policy number & insurance emergency telephone number. You will also be required to give a copy of your policy with this information to your Tour Leader on arrival with confirmation that the policy duration is sufficient to cover you for the entire duration of your trip. It is also wise to leave a copy of your insurance policy with a friend or relative for safe keeping.

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For further information on the insurance we offer, the activities covered and costs, check out the **Travel Insurance** section of our website. UK residents can purchase the insurance we recommend directly through Campbell Irvine.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Before you go

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- Why not pack some pens/pencils exercise books in your rucksack and they can be donated to a local school or project while you're away. You can also purchase these items cheaply, locally which will help local businesses.
- Take a sturdy water bottle with you from home that you can re-use throughout your trip. We carry large quantities of purified water with us on our Expedition vehicles and it is much better for the environment if you drink this, rather than purchase bottled water along the way. (It also saves you money).
- **Water-to-Go**: Oasis Overland have partnered with Water-to-Go to help reduce the number of plastic water bottles consumed during a trip. Water-to-Go is a filtration system that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants including viruses, bacteria, chemicals and heavy metals from any non-salt water source. **Click here** and enter the code OASIS25 to purchase your Water-to-Go products at 25% discount.

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refill your own water bottles from this supply, rather than purchase bottled water along the way- much more environmentally friendly and saves you money!

- Never buy endangered species or endangered habitat products. Apart from the fact of it being illegal it also encourages the trade to continue.
- Look after and preserve the areas we visit. Be careful about stepping on coral reefs or trekking on undesignated tracks.
- Buy locally made crafts and products helping to support the local economy.
- Don't feel when bargaining that you have to get the cheapest price possible just for the sake of it. Pay what the item is worth to you & don't worry about what someone else has paid.
- Try the local food and drinks - this will help to support local farmers and food sellers. Sitting in a local cafe is also a great way to meet local people.
- Dispose of litter appropriately on your trip. This includes cigarette butts. Not only does litter look unsightly it can be lethal to wildlife.
- Where any toilet facilities exist, however unsavoury they might seem to you, they should be used. Where they do not, always bury your waste and make sure it is never near, (at least 30m) a water source.
- When game viewing do not encourage your guides to get too close to the wildlife so that their natural behaviour is impeded.
- Respect local customs, traditions and beliefs of the people in the different regions that you travel through.
- Do not take photos of people, ritual events or special places unless you have asked first. Dress appropriately according to local codes and show respect around religious festivals.
- Recycling is almost non-existent in many of the areas and countries we visit - we do the best we can with limited resources & space on our vehicles.
- For books dedicated to travelling more responsibly & ethically see: **www.tourismconcern.org.uk**

WHAT TO EXPECT

LIFE ON THE ROAD

You will be travelling within a group size ranging from 2-16 people, so come with an open mind and ready to make new friends! You will be accompanied on your adventure with an experienced Local English speaking guide. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the history and culture of Morocco.

Accommodation & Transport

Transport is by minivan, 4x4 Land Cruiser and Camel! Accommodation is in shared rooms (between 2 people of the same sex from your trip unless you are a couple). We use basic 3 star hotels along with a night camping in a traditional Berber camp in the Desert. Some hotels even have swimming pools and sun-lounge areas. In some hotels you may be able to upgrade to a single room (at your own expense). Temperatures in Morocco are generally high, particularly during the summer months

from May to September, so take sunscreen. However in winter temperatures can drop right down in the evenings, but as long as you bring some warm clothing and a sleeping bag for this night in the desert then you should be more than comfortable.

Altitude

For most tours you do not exceed any altitude that would cause ill effects. However for the Berber Migration in the High Atlas which has an altitude of over 3,000 and is therefore defined as a high altitude area then there are different guidelines as exposure to these heights can cause the onset of altitude sickness. This form of sickness which is the biggest health risk for trekkers can cause people to experience differing degrees of symptoms, which include, headaches, nausea, dizziness, fatigue and shortness of breath. However our treks are designed to ensure there is plenty of time for adequate acclimatisation and cases of mountain sickness are rare. If you do suffer though symptoms will usually decrease in severity during acclimatisation. Throughout the trek it is therefore important to drink plenty of fluids and eat lots of carbohydrate food as well to keep the body properly hydrated and finally and most critically please report any symptoms of altitude sickness immediately to your guide.

Vegetarians / Vegans / Coeliac / Gluten & Lactose intolerance

Our Tour Leaders will always do their best to cater for any dietary requirement or intolerance whenever possible. However we don't cater for fussy eaters. It must be remembered that the variety of dishes available may not be the same as available to meat eaters. If there is anything in particular you require in your diet or because of an allergy or would miss from home, it would be best to bring these with you. Remember that when eating out in local restaurants & hotels sometimes being vegetarian or food allergies / intolerances are still not widely known about or understood by many local people. i.e. Vegetarians or Vegans will often be offered fish or chicken in error. Most large towns and cities, or areas used to tourists, will often have more choice but please be aware that it will probably not be as varied as you are used to when eating out at home.

Ramadan

Ramadan is the holy Islamic month during which Muslims fast during the day and is based on Lunar months. No food or liquid is allowed to pass a person's lips during daylight hours. Tourists are not expected to fast during this time, but are expected to show respect, by not eating on the streets or in public view etc. Be aware some shops and historical sites may adjust opening times, but this should not significantly affect our itinerary. Hotels and western style pubs we use normally continue to sell alcohol during Ramadan, but general availability may be limited.

People in some regions are generally conservative, especially about matters concerning sex and women. Muslim countries simply are not the place to make a feminist statement. Attitudes range from fairly liberal to fairly conservative in some of the small towns we may pass through. If you are not prepared to fit in with the social code of the area you may be harassed.

TRIP ITINERARY

Casablanca

Welcome to Morocco! After a short transfer from the airport, you will have a free day to explore this vibrant city. Tonight you will meet your fellow travellers and those who arrived in Marrakech yesterday (on our 15 day Morocco Encompassed) at your **pre-departure meeting at 6pm,** organised at the joining hotel in the heart of town. *(Dinner)*

Overnight: Hotel Diwan (or similar)

Rabat and Tetouan

After breakfast, we will offer an optional visit to the stunning Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca. This is a remarkable landmark, boasting the world's tallest minaret and ranking as the third-largest mosque globally, with a capacity for up to 25,000 worshippers.

Following this, we will journey towards Tetouan. En route, we will make a stop in Rabat, the official capital of Morocco, to explore several key sites: the Mausoleum of Mohamed V, the Hassan Tower, and the Oudaya Kasbah.

Once we arrive in Tetouan and have checked into our hotel, the remainder of the day will be at your leisure.

(Breakfast)

Overnight: Tetouan hotel

Chefchaouen

Following breakfast at the hotel, we'll drive to the centre of Tetouan, giving you some free time to explore this charming northern city. You might choose to admire the exterior of the Royal Palace, discover the elegant architecture of Our Lady of Victories Church, or simply relax at a local café with a cup of coffee or mint tea and watch the daily life unfold around you.

We then continue our journey to Chefchaouen, a scenic 1.5-hour drive away.

Upon arrival, we'll take a brief orientation walk through the old medina. The rest of the afternoon is then free for you to explore the famous "Blue City" at your own pace.

Nestled high in the Rif Mountains, Chefchaouen's striking blue-and-white medina began as a Berber stronghold. You'll have time to wander its narrow, blue-painted alleyways and soak up the tranquil atmosphere.

The city's heart is the main square, which features the 18th-century Kasbah, the central mosque, and numerous cafés serving authentic local dishes. The lively market offers a blend of traditional Moroccan crafts and unique souvenirs.

For those up for a short climb, follow the mountain trail to Ras El-Ma, the spring that supplies the entire city. This viewpoint rewards you with a breathtaking panoramic view over the 'Blue Pearl of Morocco'.

(Breakfast)

Overnight: Hotel Madrid (or similar)

Volubilis, Meknes & Fes

After breakfast, we will make our way through the Rif Mountains towards Volubilis, passing through Ouazzane and other Rif villages.

In Volubilis, we will visit the impressive Roman ruins and learn about the archaeological site and its place in Moroccan history.

We will then continue to Meknes, a city famed for its 17th-century heritage. We will stop here for lunch and take some time to admire the historical walls of the Medina and the monumental gate, Bab El Mansour.

Following our visit to Meknes, we will drive directly to Fes, the oldest and largest medieval city in the world, where we will spend the night.

Its medina is a heady mix of aromas, sounds and sights and we include a local guide to navigate us around the souk and city and learn about the history of this fascinating city. There is a lot to do and visit including plenty of mosques and palaces, but be aware that only Muslims can enter Mosques in Morocco. After a day exploring dye-pits, tanneries and restaurants, we return to our hotel to get ready for an optional night of **Moroccan entertainment** and food at a restaurant in town. (Full day city tour included). *(2 x Breakfast)*

Overnight: Hotel Arena (or similar)

Midelt

This morning we journey over the **Moyen Atlas** and overnight at the mountainous location of **Midelt**. A small town that consists of little more than one main street, most tourists would not stop here but this is a beautiful alpine area surrounded by huge pine trees and a great place for hiking the tranquil surroundings. Midelt is also a good place for carpet shopping with a small friendly population. After our afternoon hike we enjoy a relaxing evening in this mountain location. *(Breakfast, Dinner)*

Overnight: Hotel Kasbah Asmaa (or similar)

Sahara Desert

Today we enjoy a stunning drive into the **Sahara Desert** and a fantastic Moroccan lunch (optional), after which you can spend the afternoon relaxing and swimming (except in Winter months). Then we will head towards the **desert and Merzouga**. Here we can experience a **camel ride** where we trek into the desert for a night at our authentic Berber Camp. In the evening there is plenty of local food to enjoy also the opportunity to listen to local music and a night out under the incredible **Sahara night sky filled with stars**. (Camel trek included). *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Auberge La Caravane (or similar)

Todra Gorge

Today is spent exploring **Todra Gorge**, from its plunging depths to its 1000 foot high cliffs. You have the opportunity to discover the charm of **Todra** on your trek or go for optional **Rock Climbing.** You can witness its changing colours as the sun slowly moves from east to west. Or alternatively, you could choose just to chill out for the day. *(Breakfast, Dinner)*

Overnight: Hotel Amazir (or similar)

Ait Benhaddou

Today our journey takes us through Ouarzazate, where you have the chance for an optional tour of the Film Studios. We then drive on to **Aït Benhaddou**, a 'fortified city', situated along the former caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakech. It is situated on a hill along the **Ouarzazate River** and boasts some beautiful examples of kasbahs, some of which remain inhabited. Granted UNESCO World Heritage listing, the site had been the setting for many films including *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Gladiator*. Here we also include a guided tour of the main Kasbah. *(Breakfast and Dinner)*

Overnight: La Rose Du Sable (or similar)

Essaouira

Today we drive to **Essaouira and the Atlantic Coast**. We pass some stunning mountain scenery before arriving at a colourful fishing town situated within 15th century Portuguese fortifications. With fantastic beaches and great surf you will have enough free time to go surfing, wind surfing or kayaking or just relax on the beach or alternatively explore the UNESCO-listed **medina** with its various souks and woodcarving workshops. The beach is in front of the Medina and there are cafés with terraces where you can relax while drinking mint tea and watch Moroccan life go by. There is also optional horse trekking, quad biking available. *(2 x Breakfast)*

Overnight: Hotel Miramar (or similar)

Marrakech

Glowing red, like a welcoming campfire, against the snow-capped **High Atlas Mountains**, the name **Marrakech** conjures up images of an exotic city, of magic carpets, snake charmers and spices brought in by camel trains. Set within the rose-coloured walls of the medina lies a reality that is not that far removed from an exotic film set - a tangle of winding streets that open onto verdant gardens and dark alleyways that lead to bustling souks. You can explore the central square, the **Djemâa-el-Fna**, an extraordinary gathering and market place. It is full of colour, spicy aromas and traders. It is worth going to the market place in the evening when overflowing with food stalls, dancers, acrobats, fortune tellers, musicians and henna artists. Towering over all this is the **Koutoubia mosque**, the tallest building in the city, and a reminder of the importance of Islam to the lives of the city's residents. Try a **traditional hammam**, a steam bath followed by an exfoliating massage - it's the ideal end to the trip. *(2 x Breakfasts)*

Overnight: Hotel Gomassine (or similar)

Marrakech

The tour ends after breakfast. For those flying out of Marrakech on this day you can arrange airport transfers with your guide, and these can be booked any time for this day – there is luggage storage at the hotel should you need to check out before your go to the airport. Additional nights in Marrakech can also be booked upon request, please contact us for details. *(Breakfast)*

Please note - This trip is run in conjunction with a local operator.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Optional Excursions are paid for on the day and organised during your trip, so you can decide whilst travelling which activity you may want to do. Prices listed are only a guide and may be dependant on fluctuating exchange rates and minimum numbers. Please see below for more details.

MOROCCO

Title	From Price
Bahia Palace Entry Fee	US$10
Hassan II Mosque	US$14
Guided city tour of Marrakech 3 hours	US$20
Hot air balloon ride over the High Atlas Mountains	US$200
Movie Studio visit in Ouarzazate	US$8
Dinner and an evening’s entertainment in Fes	US$30
Quad biking in Essaouira. Age 16+ ONLY	US$59

Title	From Price
Cooking classes in Essaouira	US$30
Windsurfing in Essaouira	US$60
Surfing in Essaouira	US$35
Hammam in Marrakech	US$15
Rock Climbing Todra Gorge (min age 16), from	US$30
Horse riding in Essaouira – 1 hour	US$25

We feel that having optional excursions gives a greater degree of flexibility and independence to our group members; independence to decide how much your spending budget can afford; flexibility to decide when and what time of day or with whom to visit a particular site, rather than for example, with the whole group at a pre-ordained time.

You pay for the optional excursions to the local operator, ensuring the money stays with that operator in the local community and this ensures as well, that you are paying the true price for any optional excursions you want to do. This also applies to accommodation costs before and after the trip. Please note that the prices of optional excursions quoted are approximate as local prices can and do change. Please see the relevant trip page for the Optional excursions you can do on that trip and a list of prices.

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